

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claims 1, 2, 6-11, 13, and 29-31 and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 14-17, 19, and 22-28. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to include assaying for changes in response to a test agent, which was claimed in cancelled claim 13.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

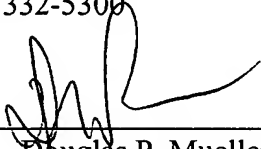
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: March 4, 2005

By



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/pjk

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to methods and reagents for screening, identifying, and/or quantifying molecular interactions. In particular, the invention provides a method for identifying protein-protein interactions comprising prey proteins interacting with bait proteins comprising:

- (a) introducing one or more prey protein in cells, wherein a prey protein is labelled with an epitope tag permitting separation of the prey protein from other proteins in the cells;
- (b) introducing one or more bait protein in the cells, wherein a bait protein is labelled with a detectable substance permitting detection of protein-protein interactions comprising a prey protein and the bait protein; and
- (c) assaying for protein-protein interactions comprising a prey protein and bait protein by detecting the detectable substance.